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Applicants:

Nedeliko Varnica et al.

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METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 12 day of October, 2004.

Jeanne W Chub

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments indicated herein be made to the above-identified patent application prior to examination on the merits.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this Preliminary Amendment.